Vol. 34, No. 4

ONE AIR FORCE, SAME FIGHT ... AN UNRIVALED WINGMAN

April 4, 2008

NEWS BRIEFS

EOC testing on hold for May

Due to the scheduled exercise, End of Course Testing is cancelled for May. If you have members who will require testing, please plan to have them test over the April or June UTA. Alternate UTA testing is offered.

Free movie tickets available

On April 4, the first 30 enlisted members, up to Tech. Sgt., to arrive at the base theater will receive their tickets free. compliments of the local Air Force Sgts. Association, Chapter 1055. Only two tickets per military member will be handed out. For more details, call Master Sgt. Ross Wood. 817.782.3849.

Free concert at Billy Bob's

On Saturday, April 19, Billy Bob's is offering free admission to everyone who has military identification to see Darryl Worley in concert.

His song "Have you forgotten" is a great reminder to 9/11. Call Billy Bob's ticket office for details.

Remember...

April's "B" UTA is from April 19-20.



Advanced technology gives Reserve aircraft the edge

Col. Bruce Cox, 301st Operations Group vice commander, returns from an orientation flight with Ms. Kate Fitzpatrick, Professional Staff Member from the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, Washington, D.C., in the back seat. The flight included demonstrations on how the Situational Air Display Link (SADL) system works in coordination with the Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) on the ground to facilitate the terminal control of fighter aircraft ordnance employment. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Julie Briden-Garcia)

A message of relevance

Col. Bruce Cox

301st Operations Group

Over my sixteen years in the 301st Fighter Wing, a continuous wind of change has blown across the Air Force Reserve Command. Principle events that have brought our wing from 'then to now' include the departure of the active duty Air Force from Carswell Air Force Base, surviving two Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) committee actions, and the formalization of the Air

Expeditionary Force (AEF) deployment cycle. While all of these elements introduced new challenges to our wing, there was another dramatic, far more important, transformation afoot. A change that redefined the core mission capabilities of the aircraft parked on our very own ramp.

Through keen vision and perseverance, AFRC leadership began a crusade to increase the combat capability for its' assigned F-16C fleet. The most critical changes included

precision targeting via the Litening Targeting Pod (TGP), data-link operations via Situation Air Display Link (SADL), the incorporation of Global Positioning System (GPS), and equipping the aircraft and pilot with night vision goggle (NVG) capabilities. What did these increases in combat capability provide our wing, our command, our nation? In a

(TECHNOLOGY, continues on page 6)



Responsibility increases with future force structure changes



from the First Sergeant's desk

Chief Master Sgt. Jack B. Mills

301st Fighter Wing Command Chief Master Sgt.

Did you know it is the job of every first sergeant to ensure the commander has a fully trained, equipped, ready-to-fight force? Are *you* ready to put on your next stripe now and do a great job?

If you can't honestly answer 'yes', I hope you'll take some time to talk with your first sergeant about what you can do to be better prepared because there are many force structure changes coming our way. I can say this with confidence because I was one of the nine chiefs in 301st Fighter Wing who recently attended the first-ever Air Force Reserve Command Chiefs Conference in Atlanta, Ga. We heard several talks on the future force structure and got a glimpse of some future changes.

Our enlisted force is changing – we are going to be asked to take increased leadership responsibility, engage in more professional growth, and become increasingly versatile in carrying out the orders of the officers placed over us. During the conference, I realized 17 of our 301st Fighter Wing chiefs were working in five different locations, and some how, the mission was still getting accomplished back home.

The reason we could actually get by with being so dispersed while sustaining the mission at home ... allow me to introduce you to the 301st FW Senior Master Sergeant. This group of senior NCOs can literally run the mission any time, and the vast majority of them are ready to put on that next stripe and do the job.

Are you ready to put on that next stripe and do a great job? If you really want to know how to do it, please take a moment to talk with your local Senior Master Sergeant. Every one of them will be glad to work with your first sergeant to help you as a mentor and a role model.

You won't read a ton of articles that acknowledge and laud the work they do, so I want to publicly thank each Senior Master Sergeant for all the hard work and professionalism.

I also request that every Senior Master Sergeant in the 301st FW attend a meeting in the Wing Auditorium on Sunday of the April UTA at 8:30 a.m., so we can talk more about the role of the SMSgt. First Sergeants, Chiefs, and SNCOs – please make sure your Senior Master Sergeants have the availability to attend this meeting.

The Airman's Creed

I am an American Airman.
I am a Warrior.
I have answered my Nation's call.

I am an American Airman.

My mission is to Fly, Fight, and Win.
I am faithful to a Proud Heritage,
A Tradition of Honor,
And a Legacy of Valor.

I am an American Airman.

Guardian of Freedom and Justice,
My Nation's Sword and Shield,
Its Sentry and Avenger.

I defend my Country with my Life.

I am an American Airman.
Wingman, Leader, Warrior.
I will never leave an Airman behind,
I will never falter,
And I will not fail.

If you'd like to get a copy of this poster, you may download it off the official Air Force Web site at http://www.af.mil/specials/creed/creed.html. A video and printable version is also available at the site Web address.

FIGHTER LINE

Fighter Line is an Air Force Reserve funded publication for members of the U.S. military services.

Contents of the Fighter Line are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

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photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Deadline for unsolicited submissions is close of business Monday after the "A" schedule unit training assembly.

Articles should be typed, single-spaced, and, if possible, submitted via email to the public affairs office at 301fw.pa@carswell.af.mil.

For more information about the Fighter Line, call the 301st Fighter Wing public affairs office at 817-782-7170

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Commentary: Exercise your right to vote

Tech. Sgt. Stephen Bailey

Public Affairs

preacher came to visit an elderly lady who had been away from the congregation for a few weeks. He sat down and started talking about how everyone missed her and that they hoped to see her soon.

While he sat there he noticed a bowl of peanuts nearby and, while he spoke, he started to eat a few. After several minutes, he realized he had eaten the whole bowl of peanuts. He quickly apologized to the lady saying how embarrassed he was that he had eaten the whole bowl. She replied, "That's ok young man. I don't much care for peanuts, I just like to lick the chocolate off of them!"

Some have said that humor is a ridiculous way of helping us to see the truth about an issue and, although this story might make us think twice before eating peanuts, it should help us to see an important key – make sure you know what's going on.

For a few minutes, I want to talk about exercising and voting, probably two very important activities we claim we never have time to take part in.

Many people tell me, when it comes to exercising, there's just not enough time in the day to fit it in, or better yet, they're just completely worn out, and even if they did make it into a gym, they wouldn't be able to move from complete exhaustion. For me, I couldn't afford not to go exercise — it gives me energy rather than taking it away.

Healthy exercise is critical to the extension of our lives. Much has been written about this subject urging everyone to begin walking, lifting weights, do cardio, or some type of physical activity. The more we learn about exercising, the better we will be. It doesn't take a lot to begin a sound exercise program – no one is saying become Mr. Olympia or run the Boston Marathon, but healthy exercise is critical to our lives.

My father told me on several occasions that he wished he had started a regular exercise program earlier in life. In fact, I

believe exercising helped increase his life span by several years. He would say exercising helped him feel better, sleep better and gave him a better quality of life than he had before.

Now, there are thousands of exercise and nutrition books and magazines out there to choose from; take the time to become better informed and make sound choices, especially when it comes to health and exercise. We can have all kinds of things in the world to enjoy, but if we're not around ... well, you know.

VOTE



For information: www.fvap.ncr.gov

Begin tomorrow with a regular exercise program. Walk around the block with a spouse or friend, run on a treadmill or play basketball or racquetball, or even swim a few laps. Your body will be glad you did.

A healthy body will also give you better brain function which will help with another important area — your right to vote.

If you're like me, lately you have become overwhelmed with all the political commercials, news shows and telephone marketing campaigns about the presidential candidates. At times, it can become too much, almost to the point of

throwing up your hands and saying, 'who cares!'

Well, I care and so should you. There's nothing worse than not knowing what's going on especially when it comes to the welfare of this country and of the world. Yes, I've been told all my life, voting is a privilege and my vote can make a difference. But it's the freedom that I'm taking part in and that I enjoy and am proud of. A freedom that didn't come easy!

Be knowledgeable about your vote and make sure you vote for the candidate who

you have confidence in and one who cares about the presidency, not in just being president.

We are amazing people sometimes; for some of us, all it takes to make up our mind is a roaring

speech, appreciating the outfit a candidate wore, or taking notice if they appeared on Saturday Night Live or MTV. The same could be said about going to a particular church just because they served donuts and coffee ... we're smarter than that.

Right now the country is heading into critical times that will decide the political and moral direction the country. The decision is ours to make but deciding not to vote is a decision we can't afford to make either.

I've had family members who have said, "What does it matter what a candidate believes as long as it does not affect my family." It's not, will it affect my family, but rather, when. Voting is our right to decide between what is right and wrong based on accurate information. So our responsibility is to make up our mind based on factual information and then vote.

We are reaching a point in our world of inactivity; we believe if we don't get involved, everything will work out just fine. History tells us this is wrong. Many great causes were defended and won by your family and mine – let's not be the generation who doesn't act but sits idly by and watches from the sidelines and then complains when it doesn't go our way.

I encourage you, as I do myself, to exercise our right to vote. I believe we'll feel better when we do both.

Commander reflects on his time as 'skipper'

Maj. Karl Lewis

Public Affairs

aval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth commander, Navy Capt. Ian McIntyre, took a moment to reflect on his time spent here while he prepares for his next assignment.

Captain McIntyre commented on the challenges he has faced as the 'Skipper' of one of the first Joint Reserve bases initiated under the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) in 1992.

"Challenges, yes; we have to support needs from our base tenants, be good neighbors to the community, answer our associated services, and the government. Each one has unique challenges that have to be met.

"The base will continue to grow. The Army will be bringing a new rotary wing unit to the base soon, we have to make sure facilities are in place for the new unit; the Navy will bring in another Air Transport Wing to the base; aircraft components, engines, support equipment and staff will be coming to the base," said the captain.

He continued to list a number of new construction projects that will take place in the upcoming months.



Navy Capt. Ian McIntyre, Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base Carswell Field commander, will hand over his command this month to Capt. Tracy Smyers. Before moving on, Captain McIntyre spoke with the 301st Fighter Wing Public Affairs office on some changes that the base will see in the very near future. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Maj. Karl Lewis)

Included are a new Child Development Center, a multilevel parking facility and a brand-new, modern, control tower located right in the middle of the field. "This will give the folks in the tower an unrestricted view of the airfield." A new water training tank (swimming pool) and gym expansion and Joint **Communications Center** will then follow.

"NAS JRB is estimated to be worth slightly more than \$1.4 billion dollars in current market value. The base is comprised of 1,737

acres of land with 396 buildings and has a 12,000 foot long runway that is shared with aerospace manufacturer, Lockheed-Martin. The impact to the local economy is around \$1.2 billion dollars," said Captain McIntyre.

The base is growing and will be a valuable resource and asset to our nation.

Captain McIntyre started his Navy career in 1986 after spending three years as a Merchant Marine sailor. He transferred his Merchant Marine commission for a

Navy commission and went to Pensacola Naval Air Station to start his naval flying career.

Captain McIntyre's next assignment will be at the **Naval Support Activity** Mid South, Millington, Tennessee, where he will be in charge of policy for mobilitation of active duty for special work, bringing in reservists, Individual Augmentees or those on medical hold.

The new base commander, Capt. Tracy D. Smyers, is due on station in early April.



Community involvement spreads Air Force pride

Master Sgt. Jerry Munoz Honor Guard

For over a year now, I've been going out to local schools to provide some assistance for their military programs. The idea originated after I was judging a local Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps competition. The instructor starting asking me questions on how to make their program better. I offered to go to the high school and help him train his cadets.

I'm currently assisting the program at Timberview High School in Mansfield, Texas. Timberview opened in August 2004, with the the JRROTC program starting the following school year.

The Air Force JRROTC program at Timberview teaches three different subjects:
Academics - 40 percent,
Leadership - 40 percent, and
Physical Education - 20
percent. Typically the
instructors will teach three
ninety-minute blocks per day.
Friday's are reserved for
physical education.

Some of the topics discussed in class are AF history, world cultures, aerospace studies, academic studies, and astronomy. During drill and ceremony time, the



Cadets from Mansfield's Timberview High School perform Color Guard duties during one of their school's home football games. (U.S. Air Force Photo)

cadets drill outside to become proficient in marching, calling cadence, etc.... The Timberview AFJROTC staff include: Senior Aerospace Science instructor -Lt. Col. Webster, Aerospace Science instructor - Senior Master Sgt. Cox, Cadet Leadership and cadet group commander - Lt. Col. Jaime Zahirniak and deputy commander - Lt. Col. Micah Breedlove.

The group's drill team and color guard team practice after school so they may compete in

local competitions. During the past year, their program has made tremendous strides.

Initially, training was a little difficult; it took some time to feeling them out. They were still using Army drill and ceremony movements. But, to their credit, they quickly saw the light and were receptive to our 301st Base Honor Guard training standards.

I showed them the Air Force Honor Guard basic protocol, honors, and the ceremonies training guide manual as well as the visual training guide we helped design. I stressed to them, "This is what we use when we trained our personnel and it was a proven commodity." From then on, their program started to gel.

In the weeks that followed, I noticed their movements were finally becoming consistent. I started to get positive feedback from the cadets on their recent competitions. The hard work payoff finally came in their competition in Wiley, Texas, Jan. 2008. The Color Guard team from Timberview High School tied for first!

When I went to the high school for my weekly visit, they were very excited to tell me about how they placed in the competition. It was the first trophy ever won by their program. They also thanked me for prejudging them Thursday before the competition, and for all the direction I had given leading up to the event!

I said to them, "This is what we strongly believe about our program back at the 301st Fighter Wing Base Honor Guard: continuity plus consistency equals competency!" If they follow the training method the Honor Guard uses, they will continue to be successful!

Letter expresses genuine words of thanks, praise

Editor's note: This letter was sent to the Public Affairs office e-mail on March 7, 2008 from a community member wishing to express his feelings of the military's presence in his community.

Thanks for your service...

This is to say thank you to all the men and women who serve, not only in the 301st Fighter Wing, but to all those in all the units at the NAS JRB.

I recently moved to Benbrook, and now hear aircraft leaving the base, most days of the week. As I listen, I

think of the freedoms we in the United States enjoy, because of the service and sacrifices of all service personnel, and their families.

Some may not like the noise, but to me it serves as a reminder of how blessed we are as a nation, due in great part to you who serve.

Much more could be said, all in praise and sincere thanks to all of you, but I hope this short note is an encouragement to you and anyone else who reads it.

Thank you, and God Bless you! Mike Smith, Benbrook, Texas



Col. Bruce Cox (left), 301st Operations Group vice commander, gives a Night Vision Goggle (NVG) demonstration to Ms. Kate Fitzpatrick (center), a Professional Staff Member from the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, Washington, D.C. Ms. Fitzpatrick, and Ms. Katy Hagan (right), also a staffer, each received an orientation flight in the 457th Fighter Squadron's F-16. The orientation rides were to provide a full understanding into how the Air Force Reserve Command spends a portion of the Defense Department budget for equipment upgrades and combat capability. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Julie Briden-Garcia)

(TECHNOLOGY, continued from page 1)

word ... **RELEVANCE**!

Sometime in late February 2008, Lt. Gen. John "Coach" Bradley, AFRC commander, began plans to host two **Professional Staff Members** from the United States Senate Committee on Appropriations — Ms. Kate Fitzpatrick and Ms. Katy Hagan. Their duties in Washington are likely amongst the most difficult inside the beltway ... allocate scarce dollars against a myriad of complex defense requests and requirements. Their objective during the visit was simple, experience firsthand how AFRC

is spending a portion of the DOD budget on equipment upgrades and combat capability improvements. Focusing on the enhanced combat capabilities of the F-16C+ (formalized nomenclature for the upgraded F-16C fleet), the visit included each staffer receiving an orientation ride, an in-the-aircraft, power-on, NVG demonstration and a detailed F-16C+ capabilities briefing.

Early on, the decision was made to show off the F-16C+ in an actual mission scenario. As the ongoing Global War on Terror is largely focused on supporting boots on the ground, our wing's most recent combat deployments have

been largely focused on supporting Close Air Support (CAS) operations.

A typical CAS mission involves several dynamic and challenging factors for the pilot. Specifically, the pilot will step to the jet without a clear idea of where to go, who to talk to, and what to do when arriving at the destination ... wherever that may be. Even worse, typical Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) missions are encumbered with incredibly difficult flying environments, including congested airspace, crowded communication airwaves, backside of the clock flying and densely populated urban target sets.

Striving to provide a realistic and challenging orientation mission, the first piece of the puzzle was to enlist the support of the 9th Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS). The 9th ASOS, located at Fort Hood, Texas, is an active duty Air Force-staffed organization, whose sole mission is to provide US Army soldiers access to the awesome might of US Air Force airpower.

Enlisted Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTACs) are equipped with a wide array of radios, maps, and other equipment to facilitate the

(TECHNOLOGY, continues on page 7)

(TECHNOLOGY, continued from page 6)

terminal control of fighter aircraft ordnance employment. The tools and trade of the JTAC are needed to address a chief concern of OIF Ground Force Commanders (GFCC) - incidents of fratricide (friendly fire casualties) as well as unwanted civilian injuries or death (collateral damage).

To best demonstrate a demanding CAS mission, a dense, urban environment was required. To do this, the 301st FW Airspace Office collaborated with the Federal Aviation Administration to provide temporary airspace directly overhead of the Joint Reserve Base. Due to the proximity of one of the busiest airports in the world, the communication and airspace congestion closely resembled the environment found over Baghdad, Iraq.

The final piece of the puzzle was to get the equipment in place to support the training scenario. Not an easy task, as the mission called for two Fully Mission Capable (FMC) aircraft, each with two seats and loaded with a functional Litening TGP. At the time this effort was undertaken, the 301st FW had two, two-seat aircraft and two TGPs modified with Remotely Operated Video Enhanced Receiver (ROVER). All assets were required to be full-up and ready.

ROVER provides the JTAC the ability to see what the pilot sees, via the aircraft transmitting a high bandwidth broadcast of the TGP video. This feed is received by one of the JTACs radios, which is linked to a ruggedized laptop. Video downlink capability aids in positively identifying the target, locating friendly forces, and minimizing collateral damage concerns. All of these outcomes serve to drastically shorten the 'kill chain'. What's the 'kill chain'? Well ... that's CAS in a nutshell ... find, fix, track, target and - if need be - engage.

Once airborne, the training mission immediately commenced. Upon check-in with the JTAC, the first target set was to locate a small group of people acting in a 'suspicious manner'. This group was observed congregating on the side of the road, suspected of planting an Improvised

Explosive Device (IED) - *find*. Next, the precise location was determined by the F-16C+. Using the Litening TGP and aircraft GPS capabilities, highly accurate coordinates are derived and passed to the ground forces - *fix*.

During the process of the GFCC determining just who and what this suspect group were up to, the potentially hostile group loaded up into a small vehicle and moved out. While remaining above 10,000 feet Above Ground Level (AGL), out of sight and silent to those on the ground, the group was followed throughout the base, with the video images being instantly relayed to the friendly forces on the ground - *track*.

Upon determination that these folks were indeed hostile, the GFCC elected to utilize airpower to influence the ground situation. Weapon selection, fuze settings, and attack restrictions were determined and passed - *target*. All coordination accomplished, the attack was made. A single GBU-12 scored a direct hit (simulated) upon the vehicle, rendering all inhabitants incapable of further actions against coalition forces - *engage*.

Throughout the events and requirements of this 'kill chain', the Tactical Awareness Display (TAD) provided the pilot (via SADL) near complete situational awareness of other aircraft, airspace borders, and known ground threats. While this scenario was a daytime event, everything accomplished is equivalently executable at night. In fact, the TGP dual spectrum electro-optical and infrared sensors coupled with the aircraft / pilot NVG capabilities, a compelling argument can be made that the F-16C+'s most lethal time of day occurs in the middle of the night!

The technologies resident on the 301st FW F-16C+ aircraft, provide our Airmen tremendous ability to influence almost every ground battle imaginable. This relevant combat capability is what AFRC Airmen bring to the fight!

It was an honor to show off the 301st to Ms. Katy Hagan and Ms. Kate Fitzpatrick. My thanks to all who made this happen. The outstanding administrative support and public affairs efforts set the tone. The 301st Maintenance Group providing FMC aircraft and the tremendous skill of all in the 457th Fighter Squadron resulted in the demonstration being a complete success.

301st FW players were, once again, on their A-game! I have no doubt that these two staffers are now back on the hill, replenished with fresh energy, to keep all AFRC Airmen ... for years to come ... RELEVANT.



Staff Sgt. Shane Stanke (right), and Senior Airman Adam Luebber (behind), both Joint Terminal Attack Controllers from the 9th Air Support Operations Squadron, give Ms. Katy Hagan (left), a Professional Staff Member from the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, Washington, D.C., a demonstration of the JTAC system. Lt. Col. Dan Wolf, Secretary of the Air Force Appropriations Liaison looks on. The tools and trade of the JTAC are needed to address a chief concern of OIF Ground Force Commanders (GFCC) - incidents of fratricide (friendly fire casualties) as well as unwanted civilian injuries or death (collateral damage). (U.S. Air Force Photo/Tech. Sqt. Julie Briden-Garcia)



CCAF Spring graduates awarded degrees

These individuals were awarded their Community College of the Air Force degrees in April 2008:

301 FW

Tech. Sgt. George W. Jones Social Services

301 AMDS

Tech. Sgt. Alison A. Cork Pharmacy Technology Master Sgt. Tony Navarro Allied Health Sciences

701 MDS

Senior Airman Racaan H. McHenry

Health Care Management 73 APS

Staff Sgt. Linda K. Benford
Information Management
Master Sgt. Joe A. Soria
Transportation
Master Sgt. Charles A. Yancey

Transportation **301 CES**

Staff Sgt. Cecyle Marie Hetzel Disaster Preparedness

301 LRS

Master Sgt. Eric D. Hensley

Transportation

301 AMXS

Senior Master Sgt. Steven Baker
Human Resource Management
Staff Sgt. David T. Hatton
Aircraft Armament Systems
Technology
Master Sgt. Charles M. Yaws
Avionic Systems Technology
301 MXS

Senior Airman Isaac H. Feldhaus Aircraft Armament Systems Technology

Staff Sgt. Kimberly A. Webb Munitions Systems Technology Master Sgt. Jacqueline R.

Yasenchack
Munitions Systems

Technology 301 OSS

Staff Sgt. Sara J. Schiel Aircrew Safety Systems Technology

610 RSG

Tech. Sgt. Kelli D. Hayes Human Resource Management

610 SFS

Tech. Sgt. Larry Sanchez

Criminal Justice

Staff Sgt. Scott W. Truman

Criminal Justice

Scholarship information available

The Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA), the Airmen Memorial Foundation (AMF), and the Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force (CMSAF) join together annually to conduct a scholarship program to financially assist the undergraduate studies of eligible, dependent children of Air Force Active Duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve Command enlisted members, and Air Force Sergeants Association members in active, retired, or veteran status.

To date, the AFSA Scholarship programs have granted 1.5 million to dependents of the Air Force enlisted. Dependent youth who have a grade point average of 3.5 of higher and a minimum combined SAT score of 1650 or minimum combined ACT score of 24 are encouraged to submit an application. More criteria and application package information

is available on the AFSA Web site: www.afsahq.org. All completed applications packets must be received at AFSA Headquarters no later than Monday, March 31, 2008. Incomplete packages are ineligible for the competition.

The AFSA Scholarship Program, open only to dependent youth of AFSA or AFSA Auxiliary members, is funded by donations from AFSA and AFSA Auxiliary members and field activities. AFSA's most prestigious awards are the Frank C. Fini, Hardy B. Abbott, Claude Klobus, and James Staton scholarships valued at \$2,500 each. Last year there were five additional memorial scholarships, three valued at \$2,000 and two valued at \$1,500. AFSA also awarded \$1,500 academic excellence scholarships. Visit www.afsahq.org for additional details or call Master Sgt. Ross Wood at 817.782.3849.

DID YOU KNOW?

Ref: AIR FORCE INSTRUCTION 36-290, 2 AUGUST 2006 Incorporating Change 1, 6 August 2007

Eyeglasses and sunglasses must follow these guidelines:

- ♦ Conservative ornamentation on frames and lenses.
- ♦ Authorize conservative ornamentation on nonprescription sunglasses or eyeglasses, frames may be black or brown material or gold or silver wire.
- ♦ Brand name glasses may be worn with small logo on frames or lenses. Logo must be same color as frames or lenses.
- ♦ Conservative wrap around sunglasses may be worn.
- ♦ Conservative, clear, slightly tinted or photosensitive lenses.
- ♦ Conservative lenses and frames (faddish styles and mirrored lenses prohibited). No sunglasses (to include darkened photosensitive lenses) in formation. Not worn around the neck or on top/back of head or exposed hanging on the uniform.
- ♦ Eyeglasses/sunglasses will be worn in the manner for which they were made.

The Air Force Association announces the following scholarship and grant programs for 2008:

Pitsenbarger Awards: This awards provides a one-time grant of \$500 to selected top USAF enlisted personnel graduating from the Community College of the Air Force who plan on pursuing a baccalaureate degree. Grants coincide with CCAF graduation ceremonies held each spring and fall.

Spouse Scholarships: This scholarship is designed to encourage Air Force spouses worldwide to pursue an associate/bachelor or graduate/postgraduate degree. For additional information and application go to the Web site: http://www.afa.org/aef/aid/spouse.asp. Application deadline is April 30, 2008; scholarships are awarded in June.

Jodi Callahan Memorial Scholarship (Graduate Program): This one provides financial assistance and recognition to active duty Air Force, full-time Guard or Reserve members who pursue a Master's degree in a nontechnical field. http://www.afa.org/aef/aid/callahan.asp. Completed applications must be received by close of business, June 30, 2008.

Grantham University Scholarship: This scholarship encourages active duty dependents to continue their education. For details, visit http://www.afa.org/aboutus/memben/grantham.asp. Applications will be accepted between April 1 and June 15 with scholarships awarded in July.



Airmen to reach educational goals with assistance

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The Air Force Military Tuition Assistance program, which allows Airmen to reach educational goals, recently identified an opportunity to link force development initiatives with the program after receiving feedback from the 2007 Air Force Audit Agency.

"Historically, MilTA has been used as a recruitment incentive wherein individuals are offered the opportunity to work towards personal higher education goals, while serving our nation," said Joe McDade, the director of Force Development. "While focused on enhancing Airmen's educational levels, force development seeks to deliberately link advanced education with Air Force institutional and occupational requirements."

Allowing Airmen to purse higher education benefits both the individual and the Air Force, he said.

This ensures the Air Force maintains the recruiting and retention benefits inherent in the program while also providing synergy with force development efforts, Mr. McDade said.

Efforts to instill a dual-purposed approach include ensuring institutional competencies are synchronized within the MilTA program, while also working with career field managers to identify advanced degrees that are relevant to each functional community.

Air Force Uniform Board goes virtual

SAN ANTONIO (**AFPN**) — Airmen now will be able to submit ideas for improving Air Force uniforms with a few simple clicks of a mouse.

By logging into the Air Force's IDEA Program Web site, https://ipds.csd.disa.mil/, Airmen can select a link that allows them to submit an idea for a uniform change or update.

Once submitted, ideas are routed through the same channels as other Innovative Development through Employee Awareness, or IDEA, suggestions. Any suggestions that make it to the Air Force level will be forwarded to and reviewed by members

of the Air Force Uniform Board.

This process is designed to make it easier for Airmen to submit suggestions and better defines ideas by allowing Airmen in the field to provide input to the uniform board without having to wait for major commands to ask for their input.

"You will see a faster process, and you will also see more efficiencies in the system," said Col. Paul Price, an Air Force Uniform Board member. "That will allow us to make better and more timely decisions."

The Virtual Uniform Board also will allow Air Force leaders to be more responsive to the field and provide more flexibility to board members while saving time and money.

For further questions, contact the Air Force Personnel Center Contact Center at 800.616.3775 and selecting option 1, 1, 2.

New earned income credit rules lucrative for some Airman

(AFPN) — The tax laws affecting military taxpayers have changed significantly over the last few years, said

RAMSTEINAIR BASE, Germany

Capt. Mary Ellen Payne, the officer in charge of the tax center at Ramstein Air Base.

"In the past, military pay allowances such as variable housing allowance and cost-of-living allowance were traditionally included as part of your earned income, even though those allowances weren't taxed. This would put most military members over the annual income threshold of qualifying for the earned income credit," Captain Payne said.

"Your best chances of qualifying are if you're a couple filing jointly with two children have an annual income threshold of around \$39,000," Captain Payne said.

There are six different income thresholds based on the structure and employment status of each family as well as the number of children included in the family.

The earned income credit is a law that was created to give tax breaks to working families. It's a refundable credit meaning that even if you have no tax liability — in other words, you don't owe taxes for the year and you're scheduled to receive back everything you paid out over the calendar year, you can still qualify to receive earned income credit on top of the money that was withheld throughout the year. The maximum amount of income credit being paid out is \$4,716.

"The last thing that's important to know is that it's difficult for the tax office to estimate how much people will receive on their return without using a certain type of software because there are many variables that affect what you qualify for," Captain Payne said.

"That said, we encourage people to come to us and we'll help them understand exactly how much they qualify for," she said.

Other mandates for earned income credit qualification:

- You cannot file "married, filing separately" to qualify for earned income credit. Partners must file jointly.
- —Both partners filing jointly and all claimed children must possess a U.S. issued social security number.
- If you have a foreign spouse, he or she must possess a U.S. issued social security number (not an "ITIN" Individual Tax Identification Number)
- You have to have lived in the U.S. for at least six months out of the year.
- Military assigned to overseas bases qualify for six months U.S. occupancy
- Civilians working at overseas bases do not qualify for U.S. occupancy.

Travel/Pay tip of the month

The local and TDY mileage rate increased from \$.485 to \$.505 on Mar. 19, 2008. The MALT PCS mileage rate *decreased* from \$.20 to \$.19 effective Jan. 1, 2008. This retroactive decrease will require a correction to collect the \$.01 per mile, however in accordance with the DoDFMR, Vol 9, Chapter 8, we do not have to collect any amount \$10.00 or less.

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Information has been removed for intranet publication



DECA reopens at Carswell

(Second from left) Mr. Richard S. Page, acting Director of the Defense Commissary Agency (DECA) assist the installation commander, Navy Capt. Ian McIntyre, and the Army Air Force Exchange Service commander, Brig. Gen. Keith Thurgood, in the ribbon cutting ceremony March 25 as the AAFES BX-Mart converts back to a traditional commissary. Each armed service at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Carswell Field, Texas, was represented by a female enlisted member such as Airman 1st Class Samantha Payne (second from the right) from the 301st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Julie Briden-Garcia)

PROMOTIONS and NEWCOMERS

Promotions

73 APS

Airman Ralph Parrotta
Senior Airman Viviana M. Molina
Staff Sgt. Russsell Albright
Staff Sgt. David K. Chance
Staff Sgt. Nickolas R. Houdek
Master Sgt. David Serrano, Jr.
701 MDS

Airman 1st Class Robert N. Havens Senior Airman Miles E. R. Thayer Staff Sgt. Racaan H. McHenry Staff Sgt. Frank Palacios Staff Sgt. Stoney O. Pate Tech. Sgt. Amy L. Brown Master Sgt. Melinda M. McNicholas 301 SFS

Senior Airman Joshua Benton Senior Airman Joshua L. Stevens 301 AMXS

Senior Airman Matthew K. Hine 301 CES

Senior Airman Antonio Johnson Senior Airman Lisa N. Smith

301 MXS

Senior Airman Bradley S. Wheeler Staff Sgt. Christopher Hernandez Staff Sgt. Omar Ortega Staff Sgt. Reynaldo T. Tarin Tech. Sgt. Brent L. Patton

301 LRS

Tech. Sgt. James E. Baker Tech. Sgt. Scott J. Fisher 301 FW

Tech. Sgt. Kristin E. Mack 457 FS

Tech. Sgt. Andrew D. Russell Master Sgt. Lynn B. Hrisco 301 SVF

Airman 1st Class Jose O. Utria 301 AMDS

Tech. Sgt. James R. McChesney

Newcomers

301 LRS

Senior Airman Yokona S. Bell Senior Airman Michael Roland Williams Staff Sgt. Javier M. Cruz Staff Sgt. Kathleen Evans Tech. Sgt. Aldo G. Elias Tech. Sgt. Claudia Marie Tellarini 301 FW

Senior Airman Afi Bradshaw Lt. Col. Scott Edward Reddout 301 CF

Airman 1st Class Tara L. Brower Senior Airman Danilo A. Sinclair 301 AMXS

Senior Airman Stanley Dalizu Senior Airman Aaron K. Dawson Staff Sgt. Rigoberto G. Castaneda Staff Sgt. Peter Ray Slaggle 10 AF

Senior Master Sgt. Darren Dankert 701 MDS

Staff Sgt. Jennifer C. Henderson Maj. Gerald T. Delk 73 APS

Senior Airman Nicholas M. Jones **301 CES**

Senior Airman Antonia Aguirre Meza-Ramos Staff Sgt. Mark A. Jones

301 AMDS

Senior Airman Erin R. Mayes 610 RSG

Tech. Sgt. Hortense C. McCall Chief Master Sgt. Donald Meadows 301 SFS

Senior Airman Peter S. Meinster 457 FS

Senior Airman Josephine Narvais

301 MXG Staff Sgt. Jamie D. Rodriguez, III

301 SVF

Staff Sgt. James B. Stogner 301 MXS

Airman Basic Christopher B. Thomason Airman 1st Class Robert W. Miller Airman 1st Class Marissa A. Williams Senior Airman Kerry Yang

610 SFS

Tech. Sgt. Malcolm Fakuda